C.   MEDICAL ASSISTANCE UNITS

Purpose: This section contains the rules and procedures regarding the establishment of medical assistance units (MAU), for one or more family members whose eligibility for medical care is determined separately or together based on financial responsibility.

WAC 388-408-0055 Medical Assistance Units.

(1)   A medical assistance unit (MAU) is determined on the basis of relationship and financial responsibility.

   (a)   Married persons, living together are financially responsible for each other;

   (b)   Parents are financially responsible for their unmarried, minor children living in the same household;

   (c)   A parent's financial responsibility is limited when their minor child is receiving inpatient chemical dependency or mental health treatment. Only the income a parent chooses to contribute to the child is considered available when:

      (i)   The treatment is expected to last ninety days or more;

      (ii)   The child is in court-ordered out-of-home care in accordance with chapter 13.34 RCW; or

      (iii)   The department determines the parents are not exercising responsibility for the care and control of the child.

   (d)   Minor children are not financially responsible for their parents or for their siblings.

(2)   Certain situations require the establishment of separate MAUs for some family members living in the same household. Separate MAUs are established for:

   (a)   A pregnant minor, regardless of whether she lives with her parent(s);

   (b)   A child with income;

(c)   A child with resources which makes another family member ineligible for medical assistance;

(d)   A child of unmarried parents when both parents reside with the child;

(e)   Each unmarried parent of a child in common, plus any of their children who are not in separate MAUs;

(f)   A nonresponsible caretaker relative;

(g)   SSI recipients or persons related to SSI from the non-SSI related family members;

(h)   The purpose of applying medical income standards for an:

   (i)   SSI-related applicant whose spouse is not relatable to SSI or is not applying for SSI-related medical; and

   (ii)   Ineligible spouse of an SSI-recipient.

(3)   Only the parent's income actually contributed to a pregnant minor is considered income to the minor.

(4)   A parent's income up to one hundred percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is allocated to the parent and other members of the parent's MAU. The excess is allocated among their children in separate MAUs.

(5)   A parent's resources are allocated equally among the parent and all persons in the parent's household for whom the parent is financially responsible. This includes family members in separate MAUs.

(6)   Countable income for medical programs is described in WAC 388-450-0150 and 388-450-0210.

CLARIFYING INFORMATION

1.   A pregnant unmarried minor is considered a separate MAU. Only the income actually contributed by her parents is considered available to the pregnant minor. This applies whether or not the pregnant minor is living in the parent's home. The parents of the pregnant minor have no financial responsibility for the medical care of the minor's unborn child.

2.   A separate MAU is established if a non-responsible caretaker relative of minor children is in need of medical assistance. None of the caretaker relative's income is considered available to their minor relatives, (e.g. grandmother's income is not available to her grandchildren).

3.   Family members who are receiving SSI or are SSI-related are separate MAUs from other members of the family.

4.   The process of establishing separate MAUs for children and other family members because of financial responsibility rules is often referred to as Sneede/Kizer. Sneede v. Kizer is the name of a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals class action settlement which specifies how the separate income or resources of family members who are not financially responsible for other family members affects the medical assistance eligibility of other family members.

5.   When a family is not eligible because their total income exceeds the medical program standards but a child or other non financially responsible family member has separate income, that person is established as their own MAU.

6.   If the resources of a child, or other non financially responsible family member, when included with the total families resources, makes another family member ineligible, the person with the resources is established as their own MAU.

7.   None of the income or resources of the children in the separate MAUs is available to the other MAUs in the family. Because parents are financially responsible for their children, a portion of the parent's income and resources is allocated to their children in separate MAUs.

WORKER RESPONSIBILITIES

Determining the Family as a Unit

Determine a family's eligibility as one unit. Consider the entire family's income and resources together. Count all family members who live together to determine the appropriate family size when comparing to the income and resource standards. Count each verified unborn as an additional family member. If the family is eligible as a unit, process the medical application as one MAU.

Determining Separate Medical Assistance Units

8.   If the family is not eligible as a unit because of excess income or resources and a child or children in the family have separate income or resources, establish each child with income or resources as a separate MAU. The balance of the family members are established as another MAU.

9.   Establish eligibility for members of each of the MAUs.

Example 1   A single mother and two children, one of the children gets child support. The mother is financially responsible for herself and both children. The children are not responsible for their mother or each other. Establish 2 MAUs:

MAU 1:   The mother and the child with no income
MAU 2:   The child with income

Example 2   Unmarried parents who have a common child and also each have a separate child. The unmarried parents are not financially responsible for each other or for each other's child. They are each financially responsible for themselves, their own child and their common child. Establish 3 MAUs.

MAU 1:   The mother and her child
MAU 2:   The father and his child
MAU 3:   The common child

If either of the children in MAU 1 or 2 had separate income, there could be more than the three MAUs in this family.

Example 3   Grandmother and her two grandchildren. One child has his own income. The grandmother is not financially responsible for either grandchild. The children are not financially responsible for each other. Establish 3 MAUs.

MAU 1:   The grandmother

MAU 2:   The child with income
MAU 3:   The child with no income

Example 4   A single mother and two children. The mother has $900 in a savings account
and each child has his own $1200 saving account. The children have
separate resources which makes another family member (their mother)
ineligible for CN medical. Establish 3 MAUs.

MAU 1:   The mother
MAU 2:   Child with separate resources
MAU 3:   Child with separate resources

Allocating Income or Resources to MAUs

10.   Parents are financially responsible for their children. A portion of the parent's
income and resources is allocated to their children in separate MAUs. A parent's
income, in excess of 100% of the FPL (See **STANDARDS**) for the parent and other
members of the parent's MAU is allocated as income to the child in a separate
MAU. A parent's resources are allocated equally among the members of the
parent's MAU and the members of the separate MAUs the parent is responsible for.

Example 1   A mother and her two children apply. The mother has earned income of
$2,200 a month and receives child support of $300 a month for one of the
children. The family has no countable resources.

Determine the family's eligibility together:

$2200   Mother's earnings
+ 300   Child support for one child
$2500   Total Income
-1100   50% work incentive
- 400   Child care expense
$1000   Countable income

The family is not eligible for TANF/SFA CN medical because the countable
income of $1000 exceeds the TANF CNIL of $546 for a family of 3.

Establish two separate MAUs:

MAU 1:   The mother and child without income
MAU 2:   The child with income

Note: When determining eligibility for TANF/SFA-related medical (F04), use
the 50% workincentive. When determining eligiblity for an FPL related
program (e.g. F06), use the $90 work incentive.

Determine TANF/SFA CN eligibility for mother and child in MAU 1 using the
same process as used for the entire family.

MAU 1

$2200	Mother's earnings
-1100	50% work incentive
- 400	Child care expense
$ 700	Countable income

The $700 income exceeds the 2 person TANF/SFA CNIL of $440 so the
members of MAU 1 are not eligible for TANF/SFA-related CN. Now
determine eligibility for the child in MAU 1 for children's CN medical.

MAU 1

$2200	Mother's earnings
- 90	Work incentive for an FPL related program
- 400	Child care expense
$1710	Countable income
- 905	2 person 100% FPL for the needs of the mother and child in MAU 2 (this is the only income available to MAU 1)
$ 805	Income allocated to child in MAU 2

Note: The maximum income available in a parent's MAU, after allocations
have been made to other MAUs, is 100% FPL for the number of
person in the parent's MAU.

MAU 1

$ 905   2 person 100% FPL is the only countable income. It is below the 2 person 200% FPL of $1809, so the child in MAU 1 is eligible for children CN medical.

Determine the eligibility for the child in MAU 2.

MAU 2

$ 300	Child support
+805	Income allocated from the mother
$1105	Total countable income for MAU 2

The child in MAU 2 is eligible for children's CN medical because their countable income is below the 1 person 200% FPL income standard of $1342.

Example 2   A mother and one child apply. The total income to the family is $550; $400 is child support and $150 is veterans benefit payments for the child. All of the income is the child's.

Determine the family's eligibility together:

$550 Total income (unearned)

The total family income exceeds the 2 person TANF/SFA CNIL of $440 so the family is not eligible for TANF/SFA CN medical.

Establish two separate MAUs:

MAU 1:   Mother
MAU 2:   Child

Determine eligibility for MAU 1.

MAU 1

$0   Income

The mother has no countable income so she is eligible for TANF/SFA-related CN medical.

Since the mother has no income, none will be allocated to the child.

Determine eligibility for MAU 2.

MAU 2

$ 150   Veteran's benefits
+ 400   Child support
$ 550

This income is below the 1 person 200% FPL of $1342 so the child in MAU 2 is eligible for children's CN medical.

Example 3   A father and 1 child apply. He receives UC payments of $400 a month and child support of $550 a month. They have a vehicle with equity below the resource limit of $5000 and no other countable resources.

Determine the family's eligibility together:

$ 950   Total income (unearned)

This amount exceeds the 2 person TANF/SFA CNIL amount of $440 so the family is not eligible for TANF-related CN medical.

Establish two separate MAUs

MAU 1:   Father
MAU 2:   Child

Determine eligibility for MAU 1

MAU 1

$ 400   UC income

The countable income for MAU 1 is below the 1 person TANF/SFA CNIL amount of $440, so the father is eligible for TANF-related CN. Since his countable income is below the 1 person 100% FPL amount of $671, none of his income is allocated to his child in MAU 2.

> MAU 2
> $ 550   Child support

Since none of the father's income is allocated the child's only income is child support which is below the 1 person 200% FPL of $1342. The child is eligible for children's CN medical.

Example 4   A mother and her two children apply. The mother has UC income of $400. One of the children has $2500 in a savings account, established by her grandmother. The mother has a vehicle with equity value below the resource limit of $5000 and $900 in a savings account.

Determine the family's eligibility together:

> $ 400   UC income (unearned)
> $3400   Countable resources ($2500 + $900)

The income is below the 3 person TANF/SFA CNIL of $546 but the resource exceed the standard of $1000 for applicants. The family is not eligible for TANF-related CN because of the resources of one child.

Establish two separate MAUs

> MAU 1:   Mother and child without resources
> MAU 2:   Child with resources

Determine eligibility for MAU 1

> MAU 1
>
> $ 400   UC income (unearned)
> $ 600   2/3 of mother's resources (for herself and child in her MAU)

The income is below the 2 person TANF/SFA CNIL of $440 and the countable resources are below the $1000 standard, so the members of MAU 2 are eligible for TANF/SFA-related CN medical.

Determine eligibility for MAU 2

MAU 2

$ 0	Income (mother's income is below the 2 person 100% FPL of $905 so none is allocated)
$2800	Resources ($2500 +$300, allocation of 1/3 of mother's countable resources)

The child in MAU 2 is eligible for children's CN medical because the countable income is below the 1 person 200% FPL of $1342 and there are no resource limits for this program.

Example 5   Unmarried parents with a common child live together and they each have a separate child. The mother has earnings of $1000 and her child receives $300 of child support. The father receives $950 UC and his child has no income or resources. Both parents have a car, with a value under $5000 each and no other resources.

In this example establish 4 separate MAUs:

MAU 1:	Mother
MAU 2:	Father and his child
MAU 3:	Their common child
MAU 4:	The mother's child with income

Determine TANF/SFA-related eligibility for MAU 1

MAU 1

$1000	Mother's earnings
- 500	Work incentive
- 300	Child care expense
$ 200	Countable income

Since the mother's income is below the one person 100% FPL of $671, none of her income will be allocated to her children in MAU 3 and 4. Her countable income of $200 is below the 1 person TANF/SFA-related CNIL, so she is eligible for CN medical.

Determine TANF/SFA-related eligibility for MAU 2

MAU 2

$ 950	UC income (unearned)
- 905	2 person 100% FPL (needs of the father and child in MAU 2)
$ 45	Income allocated to the child in MAU 3

The father's UC income of $950 is above the two person 100% FPL of $905 allowed for his and his child's needs in MAU 2. $45 is allocated to his child in MAU 3. His countable income for determining eligibility for himself and child in MAU 2 is $905.

MAU 2

$ 905   2 person 100% FPL

This income exceeds the 2 person TANF/SFA-related CNIL of $440, so the members of MAU 2 are not eligible for TANF/SFA-related CN medical. His child in MAU 2 is eligible for children's CN medical because the income is below the two person 200% FPL of $1809.

Neither of the parents have excess resources so none are allocated to the children in MAUs 3 or 4.

Determine eligibility for MAU 3

MAU 3

$ 45   Income allocated from father in MAU 2

Since this is the only income and it is below the 1 person 200% FPL of $1342, this child is eligible for children's CN medical.

Determine eligibility for MAU 4

MAU 4

$ 300   Child support

Since this income is below the 1 person 200% FPL of $1342, this child is eligible for children's CN medical.

11.   ACES will calculate the appropriate MAUs if the correct financial responsibility codes are entered for all family members.

ACES PROCEDURES (Medical)

1.   **Screening Procedures**

Medical assistance accompanies most cash assistance programs as one AU in ACES. For "Medical Assistance" only requests, ACES will look at all members of the residence entered during the screening process and determine the most appropriate program code, program type, and medical coverage group of those members. ACES will look at family coverage first.

a.   Use the date of request as the application start date when screening the client for medical assistance. For instructions on screening an application See **APPLICATIONS.**

b.   Determine if the child or children (if any) have income or resources of their own. See **Sneede/Kizer** for instructions to complete the application when the child or children have income or resources that make the parent(s) ineligible for medical assistance.

2.   **Relationship and Financial Responsibility**

Members of the residence screened into ACES appear on the (STAT) screen for the medical assistance unit. Correct determination about who is actually applying for medical assistance is necessary before entering the valid values on the (STAT) screen when in Option [O], Interview.

a.   If other household members are present, determine the relationship to the head of household.

b.   Enter the valid value for each member's relationship in the (Rel) field. Press <F1> for appropriate valid value.

c.   When other household members are present determine the financial responsibility of those members. The client (head of household) is financially responsible for his/her child and/or spouse.

d.   Enter a valid value in the (Finl Resp) field. Persons applying for medical assistance are entered as [PN]. Press <F1> for appropriate valid value when other people are not applying for medical assistance.

e.   Complete Option [O], Interview. See **APPLICATIONS.**

Note: Incorrect valid values in the relationship and financial responsibility fields affect eligibility and spenddown liability accuracy.

3.   **Processing Application**

Process and Finalize the application as shown in **APPLICATIONS.**

ACES PROCEDURES - **SNEEDE / KIZER**

1.   Screening Procedures

A child's income cannot be used to a make a parent ineligible for TANF related medical assistance. Screen the application and allow ACES to look at family medical coverage F04 when a parent is applying for medical assistance with the child(ren) who has income or resources. For instructions on screening an application see **APPLICATIONS.**

For TANF related family medical, the information on the (INCH) screen should read:

PROG CODE = **MA**
PROG TYPE = **R, P, or E**
MED COVRG GROUP = **F04**
APPL DATE = **Date of request**

2.   Relationship and Financial Responsibility

        Establish the relationship and financial responsibility as shown in **Medical
        Assistance Units.** The financial responsibility code (Fin Resp) for the parent(s)
        and child(ren) is [PN].

        Code the (STAT) screen, F04 medical coverage group as follows:

        PERSON   FIN RESP
        Parent   PN
        Child w/no income   PN
        Child w/income   PN

3.   Processing Application

        Processing F04 TANF related medical applications is similar to processing other
        children's medical programs. The difference is that deprivation must be established
        and the completion of the (APID) screen is mandatory for TANF related medical.
        See **DEPRIVATION** for the completion of the (APID) screen.

        a.   Process the application as shown in **APPLICATIONS.**

        b.   Finalize the application as shown in **APPLICATIONS.** Review the (ELIG)
                screen to see if the F04 AU has trickled to F06, children's medical coverage.

        c.   If the AU remains F04, confirm and finalize the application. The assistance
                unit is eligible for CN medical.

        d.   If the AU has trickled to F06, **STOP. Do not finalize the AU!**

        e.   <F3> to return to the (AMEN). This means the assistance unit is not eligible
                for CN medical as one assistance unit. **Sneede/Kizer** processing is
                required.

4.   Adding a Medical Assistance Unit (Sneede/Kizer)

        a.   From the (AMEN) select [L], Add a Program.

b.   On the (KIND) screen, enter a Y in front of Other.

c.   Manually enter children's medical coverage group F06 for a child with his/her separate income on the (INCH) screen. The information on the (INCH) screen should read:

IND = **Y**
PROG CODE = **MA**
PROG TYPE = **R**
MED COVRG GROUP = **F06**

Note: There can be multiple F06's depending on how many children in the AU have income/resources.

5.   Relationship and Financial Responsibility (Sneede/Kizer)

Select Option [O], Interview and establish the relationship and financial responsibility as shown in **Medical Assistance Units.**

a.   The financial responsibility code (Fin Resp) for the parent(s) is [ST].

b.   The financial responsibility code for the child with income is [PN].

c.   The financial responsibility code for all other children in the AU is [SC].

Code the (STAT) screen, F06 medical coverage group as follows:

PERSON	FIN RESP
Parent	ST
Child w/income	PN
Child w/no income	SC

d.   Press <TRANSMIT>

e.   The (STAT) screen for F04 will appear.

Change the (STAT) screen codes for F04 medical coverage group as follows:

PERSON	FIN RESP
Parent	PN
Child(ren) w/no income	PN
Child(ren) w/income	SN

6.   Processing and Finalizing Assistance Units

Process and Finalize all assistance units. See **APPLICATIONS.** The parent(s) is not eligible for medical assistance if the original F04 AU does trickle to F06 for the children with no separate income or resources.   Depending on the parent(s) income the F04 may trickle to F99 for the children and a spenddown liability will be assigned. See **SPENDDOWN** for instructions.